

What is claimed is:

1. A method of conveying commands from a terminal to a portable electronic object, every command having a header, and some of the commands having a data field, and responses from the portable electronic object to the terminal, some of the responses having a data field, and every response having a trailer, said method comprising the following steps:

interchanging transactions by means of a bus between the terminal and the object, each downlink transaction comprising successively a token packet transmitted from the terminal to the object, a data packet transmitted from the terminal to the object, and a handshake packet transmitted from the object to the terminal, and each uplink transaction comprising a token packet transmitted from the terminal to the object, a data packet transmitted from the object to the terminal, and a handshake packet transmitted from the terminal to the object;

encapsulating the header of each command in a data field of data packets of a downlink transaction, and the data field of a command, when such a data field exists, in the data field at least one downlink transaction; and

encapsulating the data field, when such a data field exists, and the trailer of each response in the data field of the data packet of at least one uplink transaction.

2. A method according to claim 1, in which each token packet contains an identifier indicating the direction of the transfer of the data packet succeeding it in a transaction.

3. A method according to claim 2, in which the token packet of each downlink transaction relating to the transfer of at least a portion of the data field of a command or of a response contains an identifier indicating the direction of the transfer of the data packet succeeding it in said transaction.

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packet of a downlink transaction containing the header of a command, and contains an identifier for identifying the format of said response, and the expected length of the data field of said response.

[illegible]